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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 23 | Humidity 49% Partly sunny Sensex 77,958 | Nifty 24,330 | Gold 1,52,203 | Silver 2,53,102 | Dollar 94.48 | Euro 111.20 | GBP 128.43

ON THE SAFE SIDE

As summer vacation continues, child rights activists welcome special drive to put brakes on minors riding or driving as timely and apt

PAGE 5

THE SETTING SUN

With 17,207 rooftop solar installations, K'taka is 16th in country in adapting renewable energy source, despite its strong potential

PAGE 6

When out on a walk today, take a look at the trees in your neighbourhood. Chances are, you will notice how concrete is gobbling up all space near the roots, leaving no room for green cover to flourish or even survive

NO SPACE FOR TREES IN THIS CONCRETE JUNGLE

Engineers fail to prevent concretisation as contractors remain unaware of its terrible fallout

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Despite repeated reminders and orders from Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner and the chiefs of the City Corporations to remove concrete around trees, the menace continues, choking the much-needed green cover in the city.

The irony is that the higher authorities continue issuing directions for remedial measures but the ward-level engineers remain oblivious to rampant concretisation of trees in their respective wards.

Environmentalists have been appealing and pleading with the authorities concerned, especially the forest and engineering departments, to remove concrete around trees to ensure percolation of rainwater, which is essential for the growth of trees.

But, nobody cares. Almost all the trees along 17th Main, HAL 2nd Stage have concrete on their bases. On the entire stretch, not a single tree is free from concrete. It is not clear why the residents are quiet and why the Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) engineers are unconcerned about this.

> **"At least a two-foot clear area must be maintained around each trunk for natural absorption otherwise, roots weaken, leading to trees toppling during monsoons and strong winds**
>
> —Vinod Jacob, environmentalist

"Despite repeated requests, concrete is still being poured around trees, restricting vital water percolation. At least a two-foot clear area must be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Note down this number

Police officials say consumers must keep note of unique serial number and safety expiry code on domestic gas cylinders as they help during theft or accident probes

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In the wake of the recent hike in gas cylinder prices, and amid ongoing discussions and circulating videos on thefts and black marketing, the public has begun taking precautions to safeguard their cylinders. Police officials note that many citizens still overlook key safety measures, such as checking and noting down the unique serial number and the safety expiry code (e.g., A24, B25) on domestic gas cylinders, at the time of delivery.

At the heights of the West Asia tensions, several cases of LPG cylinder thefts were reported in Bengaluru, and CCTV footage from one such theft in Kalyan Nagar CCTV footage had gone viral.

City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh noted that although cylinder thefts do occur, it is rare for the victims to file a complaint. He said that reporting such cases helps the police investigate issues like black marketing and take action against those involved, thereby preventing illegal use of gas and reducing security risks.

The Commissioner explained that stolen cylinders are often sold for quick money

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Parenting insights

SHAKTI - Building Emotional Strength Within Families, a '3-dimensional parenting' workshop, will be offering neuroscience insights, guidance on emotional regulation and practical workbooks to continue the journey at home. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: May 10, 11 am**

02 Matters of the heart

Atta Galatta is presenting Rise in Love, an intimate book preview evening by Archana and Asad, born from personal unravelling, shifting relationships and familiar patterns that often go unspoken. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: May 9, 4 pm**

03 Time for a celebration

To make Mother's Day truly memorable, 2 Pints Brewing Taproom & Kitchen presents a celebration with a specially crafted menu and live band Tumbleweed, known for its electrifying stage presence and versatility. **Where: 2 Pints Brewing Taproom & Kitchen, Whitefield; When: May 10, 12 pm**

04 Eat, play, love

The Oterra Hotel is hosting a Kids Carnival Brunch, bringing a vibrant world of cartoon legends and superhero adventures. While parents enjoy a premium spread, children can dive into interactive games, live performances and more. **Where: The Oterra Hotel, 24@43, Electronic City; When: Every Sunday until May 31**

05 Summer stories

Career Compass, in association with Laughing Elephants, presents an unforgettable outdoor summer camp amidst the tranquil Sharavathi backwaters near Jog Falls. Designed for children and teenagers aged 10 to 18, the camp offers opportunities to explore nature and build new skills. Those interested can contact for registration: +91 98450 47991. **When: May 7 to 21, June 11 to 25**

On the path towards pedestrian-safe roads

Stressing challenges faced by pedestrians, including broken footpaths, encroachments and traffic, campaign calls for Draft Active Mobility Bill to be tabled in upcoming Assembly session

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A fresh citizen-led campaign on Jhatkaa.org is urging the Karnataka government to table the long-pending Draft Karnataka Active Mobility Bill during the Monsoon Session of the Karnataka Assembly in 2026.

The petition, launched by the Sustainable Mobility Network under the campaign Karnataka Walks, Karnataka Cycles, has already garnered over 10,569 signatures and calls for the Urban Development Department and legislators to provide legal protection for pedestrians and cyclists across the state.

Campaigners argue that while lakhs of people in Karnataka walk or cycle daily to work, schools, bus stops and markets, road infrastructure continues to remain heavily skewed toward motor vehicles, leaving pedestrians and cyclists vulnerable.

"Pedestrians and cyclists continue to face unsafe conditions every day with broken or missing footpaths, encroachments, inaccessible crossings and dangerous interactions with speeding traffic," the petition states.

The Draft Active Mobility Bill was prepared by Karnataka's Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT), making Karnataka the first state in India to draft legislation specifically aimed at active mobility. The bill was released for public consultation in 2021 and revised after feedback, but has not yet been tabled in the Assembly.

Concerns have been raised over inaccessible footpaths, unsafe cycling conditions and inadequate infrastructure for elderly and differently-abled citizens (File photo)

According to campaigners, the legislation has remained stuck in administrative processes despite increasing concerns over pedestrian fatalities, unsafe cycling conditions, and inadequate infrastructure for elderly and differently-abled citizens.

If enacted, the bill would require Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to design, construct and maintain continuous and safe footpaths of adequate width, build protected cycle tracks separated from motor traffic and ensure barrier-free infrastructure including ramps and accessible crossings. It would also mandate regular inspection of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure and introduce penalties for non-compliance to improve accountability among civic bodies.

Supporters say the law could significantly improve urban mobility by making streets safer and more inclusive for all.

"Imagine stepping out of your home and walking to the bus stop without fear," reads the petition.

Urban mobility advocates have long maintained that prioritising walking and cycling infrastructure is critical not only for road safety, but also for reducing congestion, lowering emissions and improving public health.

Vinod Jacob, urban strategist, said that good footpaths are essential for active mobility and pedestrian safety. "The first and last mile of any public transport journey depends on safe access by foot," he said.

Ashish from Sustainable Mobility Network, said that every year in Karnataka, nearly 6,000 pedestrians and cyclists are injured and around 200 lose their lives on the roads. "These are not just statistics, they reflect the urgent need to make our streets safer for the most vulnerable road users. At a time when obesity, air pollution and noise pollution are rising concerns, walking and cycling must be treated as essential public health solutions. Studies show that over 70 per cent of people are willing to walk for trips under 2 km, yet our cities fail to provide safe, continuous footpaths and basic pedestrian infrastructure. Karnataka has taken a pioneering step by introducing the Active Mobility Bill, the first of its kind in India, but its true value will only be realised when it is implemented on the ground to safeguard every citizen's right to safe, accessible streets," he said.

With first and last mile of public transport journey depending on safe access by foot, good footpaths are essential for pedestrian safety, says urban strategist

Brain-dead patient's organ donation gives hope to many lives

A 52-year-old woman from Ramamurthy Nagar, Anitha Bai, was admitted to Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road after a brainstem stroke and was later declared brain dead. Following this, her family consented to organ donation. Her father-in-law said, "The decision came from a place of collective understanding and humanity." Inspired by past stories of organ donation, the family felt that their loved one could continue to live on through others.

Her husband and daughter supported the decision. She donated her liver, both kidneys, heart valves and corneas, helping multiple recipients. Dr Sunil Karanth (Chairman, HOD and Consultant, Critical Care Medicine) said, "She presented with a severe brainstem stroke, and despite the best possible care, her condition progressed to brain death. The family's willingness to donate her organs turned a moment of loss into hope for others." Dr Mahesha Padyana (Consultant - Critical Care Medicine, Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road) added, "At the very moment the family was losing a loved one, we informed them about the option to save many more lives. With strong support from her husband and father-in-law, the daughter responded almost instantly, urging us to go ahead with the transplantation." — BMB

Hosakote police seize 50 stolen bikes

The Hosakote police have seized 50 stolen motorcycles amounting to approximately Rs 55 lakh and have arrested two people linked to a multi-district vehicle theft network. The accused have been identified as Narasimhamurthy KN, aged 46, and Prasad from Nellore in Andhra Pradesh. Police found that one of them worked at an FCI warehouse near Kadugodi and would allegedly steal motorcycles. He would then hand them over to Prasad, his accomplice, who then sold them in other regions. The duo was found to have conducted thefts across Karnataka, with several complaints registered in Hosakote, Malur, Bangarapete and Kadugodi, along with surrounding police station limits. — BMB

Police official suspended following feud with coworker

An internal dispute within the Devanahalli Police Station has escalated into serious disciplinary action, with Head Constable Revanna Siddappa being suspended from service over alleged misconduct and dereliction of duty. City Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh confirmed that the police personnel had been suspended. According to officials, the suspension order was issued by Mithun Kumar, Deputy Commissioner of Police (North-East Division), following an internal inquiry into the matter. Siddappa had reportedly been engaged in a prolonged dispute with an inspector over work assignments at the police station.

The situation intensified after allegations surfaced that the head constable had circulated false information against the inspector on social media platforms. The Commissioner explained that the incident had occurred a year ago, but an investigation is now being continued to determine why it has surfaced at this time and to examine other possible angles.

Complicating the issue, a video showing the inspector allegedly lathicharging a protester near a condiment shop in Devanahalli town last year recently went viral. It is suspected that the video was shared online by Siddappa, adding to the charges against him. However, Mithun Kumar, Deputy Commissioner of Police (North-East Division), stated that the incident occured in May 2025, when a group was reportedly indulging in hooliganism near a shop late at night, prompting the inspector to chase them away, which was allegedly caught on video. Further inquiry is ongoing. — BMB

'Parent can't be denied access to minor child'

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that a natural parent cannot be completely denied access to their minor child through an interim injunction in guardianship proceedings unless there is clear evidence of parental unfitness or an immediate threat to the child's welfare.

The decision came while the court was hearing petitions filed by a mother challenging a Family Court order that had continued an injunction preventing her from meeting her child. The guardianship case had been initiated by the child's grandmother and aunt following the death of the mother's husband in January 2025.

A Bench led by Justice K Manmadha Rao set aside the Family Court's order, holding that interim relief cannot effectively exclude a natural guardian from a child's life. The court emphasised that such drastic restrictions are permissible only in exceptional circumstances where material on record establishes prima facie parental unfitness or a real and imminent risk to the child.

The dispute traces back to disagreements between the mother and her late husband's family over property and asset management. The mother alleged that after her husband's death, attempts were made to sideline her both in financial matters and in her relationship with the child. She subsequently initiated legal proceedings concerning succession and property, following which the grandmother and aunt approached the court seeking guardianship of the minor.

The Family Court had earlier granted and continued an injunction restraining the mother from accessing the child, while also rejecting her plea to lift the order. This effectively deprived her of visitation rights.

Examining the case, the High Court noted that although the matter arose under the Guardian and Wards Act, 1890, principles governing interim injunctions, such as prima facie case, balance of convenience, and irreparable harm, still apply.

Importantly, the court highlighted that the case was not a dispute between two natural guardians, but between the child's mother and extended family members. Under Section 6 of the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956, the mother retains the status of a natural guardian, subject to the child's welfare.

The court found that the Family Court's order, though not formally removing the mother's status, had the practical effect of undermining her rights by denying access for an extended period. It ruled that no material had been presented to justify such a severe restriction.

Rejecting the argument that the child's routine and academic schedule warranted continued separation, the High Court said such factors may justify regulating interaction, but not eliminating it altogether.

The court also expressed caution over relying heavily on interactions with the child at an interim stage, especially when the child had been in the exclusive custody of one side. It noted the potential for influence, particularly in emotionally sensitive circumstances following a parent's death.

Referring to the Supreme Court's ruling in Vivek Singh v. Romani Singh (2017), the Bench warned that excluding a parent could lead to parental alienation, which may harm the child's emotional well-being. It also cited G Prabhudev v. Ranganayaki (2025) to underline that a child's welfare must be assessed holistically, including emotional and psychological needs.

Concluding that the injunction could not be sustained, the High Court quashed the Family Court's order. However, it clarified that it had only examined the legality of the interim relief, and that issues relating to custody, visitation, and guardianship would be decided independently by the Family Court after a full trial. **BMB**

Reckless drive flips truck

A 407 goods vehicle driver drove negligently, causing the truck to overturn on a busy ring road near the BMTC depot on May 5 at around 4.39 pm. The driver's negligence led to heavy traffic congestion in the area, following which local residents informed the police through the emergency helpline.

Hoysala 86 from Kamakshipalya Police Station reached the spot within 11 minutes and, after assessing the situation, police along with traffic personnel removed the overturned goods vehicle to the side of the road using a crane. Once the major roadblock was cleared, traffic police ensured the smooth flow of vehicles in the area. **BMB**

Chain snatcher held, gold found

Banaswadi police have arrested a man and seized a stolen gold chain weighing 16 grams, worth Rs 2.10 lakh, on May 4. According to police, a resident of Chikkabanaswadi filed a complaint on April 27 stating that an unidentified person stole his mother's gold chain while she was walking near Balaji Layout on the main road shortly after he had dropped her off.

Acting on credible information, police apprehended the suspect near Baiyappanahalli Metro Station on April 29. During interrogation, the accused confessed to the crime and revealed that the chain had been sold to an acquaintance. **BMB**

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All aboard the bus? Not quite, BMTC losses keep on piling up

Data shows BMTC is biggest contributor to overall transport losses in state with incurred cumulative losses of Rs 2,585.76 crore between 2020–21 and 2024–25

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The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) remains the biggest contributor to Karnataka's public transport losses, accounting for nearly 35 percent of the total deficit reported by four state transport undertakings over the last five years. Data tabled in the Legislature by Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy shows BMTC incurred cumulative losses of ₹2,585.76 crore between 2020–21 and 2024–25.

While losses fell sharply by 42.3 percent from a peak of ₹997.38 crore in 2022–23 to ₹575.45 crore in 2023–24, the relief was short-lived. Losses rose again by 16.5 percent to ₹670.48 crore in 2024–25, indicating that financial stress remains structural rather than cyclical. Interest payments underline the pressure. Although average monthly interest costs declined by 60.6 percent from ₹5.69 crore in 2021–22 to ₹2.24 crore in 2024–25, this suggests tighter borrowing but not a turnaround in operations.

KSRTC trend

On the other hand, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), the second largest contributor, accounted for about 26.5 percent of total losses, with cumulative losses of ₹1,979.61 crore over five years. KSRTC shows a clearer downward trend in recent years. Losses fell sharply by 86.3 percent from ₹597.89 crore in 2022–23 to ₹81.83 crore in 2024–25.

However, despite this improvement, KSRTC continues to incur steady interest costs, with average monthly payments remaining close to ₹2 crore in 2024–25. This indicates that while operating losses have reduced, legacy liabilities continue to weigh its finances.

Others decline

The remaining two corporations reflect both volatility and correction. The North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation contributed around 26 percent of total losses, reporting cumulative losses of ₹1,951.40 crore. It recorded the sharpest correction, with losses plunging by nearly 96 percent from ₹746.15 crore in 2022–23 to ₹31.11 crore in 2024–25.

The Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation accounted for about 13 percent of total losses, with ₹952.78 crore over five years, and saw a fall of over 81 percent from ₹319.99 crore in 2022–23 to ₹59.40 crore in 2024–25. Despite these reductions, all four corporations continued paying monthly interest on accumulated loans. Overall, while regional corporations show sharper corrections, BMTC's fluctuating losses remain a key concern.

Pending reimbursements affect daily operations and cash flow

Losses fell by 42.3% from ₹997.38 crore in 2022–23 to ₹575.45 crore in 2023–24, but rose 16.5% to ₹670.48 crore in 2024–25, indicating persistent structural financial stress

Shakti dues

Despite the State government releasing ₹6,503.92 crore under the Shakti scheme, transport corporations are still awaiting dues. KSRTC has received ₹4,483.62 crore, while BMTC has been paid ₹2,020.30 crore. However, pending amounts continue to accumulate, affecting operations and cash flow. KSRTC is awaiting ₹1,580.15 crore, including ₹452.62 crore for 2023–24, ₹495.80 crore for 2024–25 and ₹631.73 crore for 2025–26 up to November. BMTC's pending dues stand at ₹710.81 crore, including ₹205.43 crore for 2023–24, ₹194.78 crore for 2024–25 and ₹310.60 crore for the current financial year up to November.

Sanitary fee surge deepens industry financial stress

Small and medium industries in the city are under severe financial stress as BWSSB's revised fee structure has sharply increased sanitary charges, now calculated based on built-up area instead of actual water usage. Units that earlier paid around ₹650 are now receiving bills as high as ₹5,594, despite little change in water consumption. The hike comes when industries are already facing rising electricity tariffs, export duties, and the impact of the West Asia conflict, worsening financial strain. Industry representatives say sanitary charges have risen from 25 per cent to 35 per cent since February, calling the increase unjustified.

A BWSSB official said the revised structure, implemented in 2025, introduced a special sewerage fee based on building size. Charges are fixed at ₹1,000 for units below 1,000 sq m, ₹5,000 for those between 1,000 and 5,000 sq m, and ₹10,000 for units above 5,000 sq m. Although the board earlier indicated a reduction following objections, no formal order was issued, leading to continued higher billing. Additional penalties have further increased the burden, especially for rainwater harvesting compliance, where fines range from 50 per cent to 100 per cent of the water bill. On the other hand, industrialists argue that older buildings with smaller sump capacities are being unfairly penalised despite having rainwater harvesting systems. They have urged the board to reconsider the policy, especially for low-usage warehouses, while officials say possible revisions may be discussed. — BMB

Six-month delay may inflate metro project costs

The extension of the Namma Metro Phase III project by six months is expected to raise the overall cost by around 5 per cent, adding to the financial burden on the exchequer. Initially targeted for completion by December 2030, the deadline has now been revised to May 2031 after the state government decided to include a double-decker flyover component, requiring preparation of a fresh detailed project report. The project, covering the JP Nagar–Kempapura and Hosahalli–Kadabagere corridors, was originally estimated at ₹15,611 crore, with an additional ₹9,700 crore earmarked for the double-decker structure. The 44.45 km-long Phase III network, to be executed in eight packages, is expected to significantly improve connectivity by linking west Bengaluru with northern and southern parts of the city and enhancing access to the airport. However, past trends show delays have led to cost escalations in metro projects. Sources said earlier phases and the Yellow Line saw substantial increases, while experts warn continued delays could further inflate expenses and impact public finances. — BMB

Sweeping changes in Mahadevapura again

Mechanised road sweeping has resumed in Mahadevapura Zone, with a new sweeping machine funded through the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model beginning trial operations on Outer Ring Road and Kundalahalli Main Road. After the trial, the machine will be deployed between Lowry Junction and Iblur. According to the Mahadevapura Task Force, the machine is expected to sweep nearly 40 km of roads every night and remove up to three truckloads of silt, dust, sand, and garbage from roads. The development follows a slowdown after contracts for three earlier machines expired, and these machines are currently undergoing refurbishment. Officials said efforts are underway to redeploy them soon, adding that over 15 machines are required to cover nearly 240 km of roads. — BMB

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Debris hazard

Malleswaram

Cleared storm debris has been dumped on footpaths along Sampige Road in Malleswaram, forcing pedestrians onto busy roads and creating serious safety risks.

Unfinished work

Singapura Village

A GBA-sanctioned road dig at 8th Cross, Singapura Village remains unrestored, making two-wheeler movement difficult, especially for senior citizens.

Unfare pricing

Kalkere

Residents allege ₹20 pricing for a 20-litre water can near Kalkere Main Road, far above the usual ₹5, raising concerns over unfair and illegal charges.

Hit the brakes on underage driving

Citizens laud circular issued by Traffic and Road Safety Commissioner urging vigilance to curb instances of minors driving, deeming it necessary to ensure road safety

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Child rights activists have welcomed a special drive against underage driving during the summer vacation, following a circular issued on April 28 by Deputy Inspector General of Police and Commissioner of Traffic and Road Safety K Parashuram. Acting on a letter from Mohan Kumar Danappa, a member of the State Police Complaints Authority, the directive calls on officers to curb underage driving, especially in major cities including Bengaluru, Belagavi, Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi and Mysuru.

In his letter to the Director General and Inspector General of Police, Danappa urged action against underage driving, highlighting instances of minors engaging in dangerous practices such as wheeling.

FILE PHOTO

Welcoming the circular, Nagasimha G Rao, a child rights activist, said that while underage children engaging in vehicle driving may be seen as part of their skill development, it is not in the best interest of children from a safety and well-being perspective. "Vehicle driving and wheelies often reflect the adventurous spirit of young minds. However, their youthful energy and enthusiasm need proper guidance and direction to be channelled constructively.

Such programmes must not be limited to one-month drive but must be conducted as continuous effort in community, says child rights activist

The traffic police initiative to raise awareness among children about the dangers of underage driving and road safety laws is highly commendable. Speeding and performing wheelies may be elements of adventure sports, but when underage children participate in them without any training or safety measures, they endanger not only themselves but also others on the road," he said.

Stating that this responsibility should not rest solely with the traffic police department, Rao said that all government departments, educational institutions and civil society organisations must actively participate in training sessions and awareness campaigns.

He said that such programmes should not be limited to a one-month drive but must be conducted as a continuous, sustained effort in schools and communities throughout the year.

"Under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which India has ratified, every child has the right to life, survival and development. This includes protection from preventable risks and accidents that could harm their physical and mental well-being. Governments have an obligation under Article 24 to ensure the highest attainable standard of health, which clearly extends to road safety education and preventing underage driving," said Rao.

Dr Thippeswamy KT, former member of Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, said that underage driving is not only a violation of norms but also a safety risk. "I want the parents and society to take this issue seriously and follow it by not allowing minors to drive vehicles," he added.

IPS officer K Ramachandra Rao's suspension revoked

Just days before his retirement and on the eve of his birthday, the Government of Karnataka on Wednesday revoked the suspension of senior IPS officer K Ramachandra Rao, providing significant relief months after disciplinary action was initiated against him over a controversial video.

Dr Rao, who was serving as Director General of Police (DGP) of the Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement (DCRE), had been suspended on January 19, 2026, under the All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1969, pending disciplinary proceedings, after a video showing him allegedly misbehaving with a woman while in uniform went viral, drawing widespread public criticism. A departmental inquiry later confirmed the video to be genuine. According to an official order issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, disciplinary proceedings against the officer were initiated on March 18, 2026. Following a review of the case, the government exercised its powers under Rule 3(7)(c) of the AIS (D&A) Rules, 1969, to revoke the suspension. Rao has now been posted as Director General of Police (Police Manual) until further orders. The post has been declared equivalent in status and responsibilities to the cadre post of DGP, CID, Special Units and Economic Offences, Bengaluru. —BMB

Two held for assaulting police official on duty

Two individuals have been arrested for allegedly assaulting a police constable who questioned them for consuming liquor in a public place on Dasarahalli Main Road in the early hours of Saturday.

According to police, Constable Rudrappa from Amruthahalli Police Station was on night patrol duty around 3 am when he noticed four youths drinking liquor near a parked car. When he objected to their behaviour, the intoxicated youths picked up an argument and allegedly attacked him.

The accused reportedly abused the Karnataka Police, snatched the constable's bike keys, twisted his hands and physically assaulted him. Based on the complaint, a case has been registered against all four individuals.

Police have arrested two of the accused, identified as Aryan (27), a private firm employee and Harsha (22), an engineering student, while efforts are underway to trace the remaining two suspects. Further investigation is in progress. —BMB

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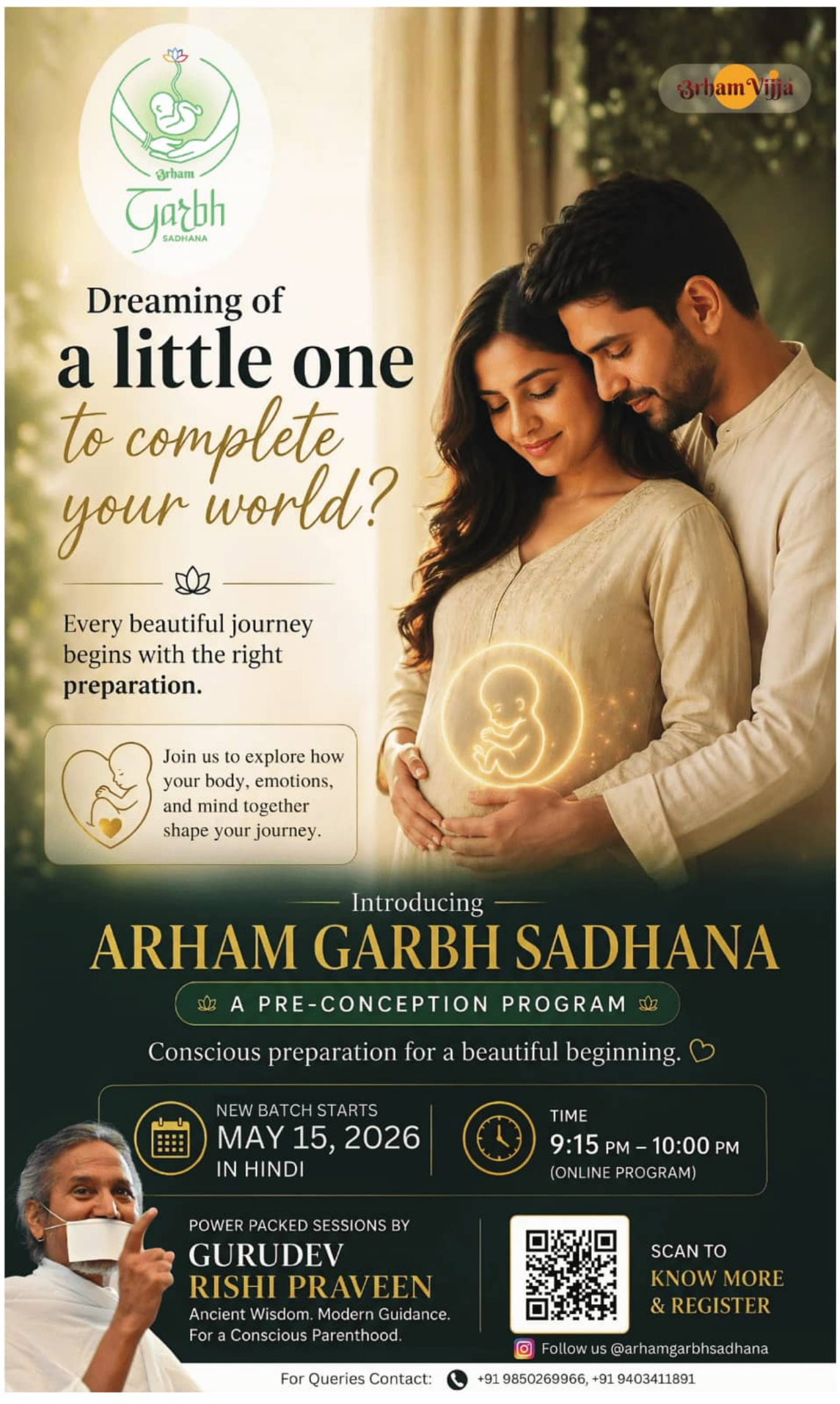

K'taka lags in rooftop solar despite vast energy potential

Low awareness, fixed charges and free electricity scheme slow Karnataka's rooftop solar adoption despite generous Central subsidies offered

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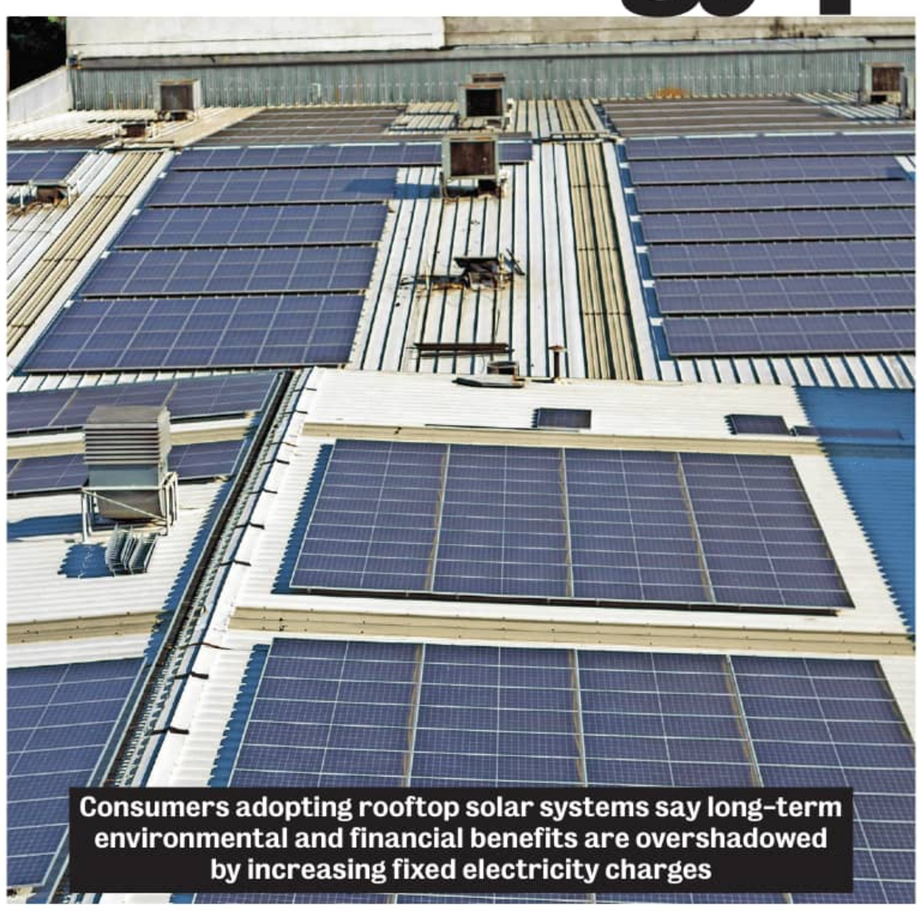

Consumers adopting rooftop solar systems say long-term environmental and financial benefits are overshadowed by increasing fixed electricity charges

Karnataka has recorded 17,207 rooftop solar installations under the Centre's flagship PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, placing the state 16th in the country despite its strong solar energy potential, according to data tabled in the Rajya Sabha by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The figures, as of March 19, 2026, show that the scheme has benefited 26,393 households in Karnataka, a small share of the 32.38 lakh households covered nationally since the scheme's launch in February 2024.

The scheme aims to provide subsidised rooftop solar systems to one crore households by FY 2026–27, helping families reduce electricity bills and promote clean energy adoption. Across India, 26.19 lakh rooftop solar systems have been installed so far. However, Karnataka's performance remains significantly behind several other states. Gujarat leads the country with 5.94 lakh installations, followed by Maharashtra with 4.90 lakh and Uttar Pradesh with 4.20 lakh. Even states such as Assam, Uttarakhand and Haryana have reported substantially higher installation numbers than Karnataka.

The data was shared in response to a Rajya Sabha question on implementation gaps in the PM Surya Ghar scheme, answered by Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy and Power Shripad Yesso Naik. Addressing concerns over affordability for economically weaker households, the Union government said several measures have been introduced to improve access to rooftop solar. These include collateral-free loans from nationalised banks at a concessional interest rate of 5.75 per cent per annum, repayable over 10 years. To reduce procedural delays, the Centre stated that the scheme's approval and subsidy disbursal process has been digitised through the National Portal, with the average time for releasing Central Financial Assistance now around 15 days after a valid redemption request. Experts note that Karnataka has lagged in rooftop solar adoption because of low public awareness, financing constraints and distribution company-related delays.

Residents embracing rooftop solar say savings are real, but rising fixed charges, approval hurdles and weak policy support continue discouraging wider household participation across Karnataka despite ambitious clean energy goals

Kochu Sankar G of Trinity Enclave RWA, Horamavu, where more than 25 rooftop solar installations were carried out years ago, said the transition has delivered significant savings for residents. "My 2.85 kW rooftop solar system has generated around 14,500 units of electricity since it was commissioned in April 2023, translating into substantial savings on power bills. Even during peak summer when air-conditioners run extensively, my BESCOM bill is only a few hundred rupees, and in normal months I often receive credits from BESCOM," he said.

Sankar added that the RWA takes pride in its early adoption of solar energy and efficient rooftop utilisation. However, he noted that apartment complexes continue to face procedural hurdles in shifting to solar because of approval complexities and a lack of consensus within many resident welfare associations. He also said greater awareness is needed, adding that elected representatives have not adequately promoted the Centre's subsidy and concessional loan benefits under the PM Surya Ghar scheme.

An energy sector expert pointed out that Karnataka's rooftop solar uptake may have slowed after the rollout of the Gruha Jyothi scheme, under which eligible households receive up to 200 units of free electricity. With many households now getting up to 200 units of electricity free under Gruha Jyothi, the immediate financial incentive to invest in rooftop solar has reduced for a large section of consumers. When monthly power bills are already negligible or zero, many households do not perceive enough short-term savings from investing in solar despite its long-term benefits.

Meanwhile, Sivaraman Hariharan, a resident of Kasturinagar, pointed out that BESCOM has been imposing fixed charges despite rooftop solar adoption. "China has crossed 1,200 gigawatts of installed solar capacity, showing what policy support can achieve. Why can't India, and Karnataka in particular, do the same? Commercial establishments, which consume far more electricity, should be mandated or strongly incentivised to adopt rooftop solar, yet the policy push remains weak. We also do not see enough elected representatives leading by example by installing and promoting rooftop solar," he said.

Black marketers try to pass of old cylinders as new

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and used in unsafe, illegal refilling operations, which can lead to gas leaks, fires, or even explosions.

In April, Banashankari police recovered two stolen domestic gas cylinders, but a police official said the complainant chose to drop the case after the cylinders were traced. The official said that they tracked the cylinders to an empty ground.

Singh explained that the cylinder number links it to a specific manufacturer and its maintenance history. He added that in cases of theft, loss, fire, or any accident, having the number recorded helps police officials quickly identify the owner, manufacturer, and the last authorised filling station.

The number also is a key piece of evidence during instances of gas leaks, explosions, or fires, he said.

The Commissioner explained that the serial number also helps in identifying liability. In the event of an accident, it allows investigators to determine whether the issue arose due to a manufacturing defect, poor maintenance, delayed hydro-testing, or unauthorised refilling.

In March, multiple cases of illegal LPG cylinder storage were reported across Bengaluru. At Talaghattapura (JP Nagar), police seized 155 cylinders, including 148 empty and seven filled commercial ones, and booked the agency owner under the Essential Commodities Act. In Yelahanka New Town, officials raided Annapoorna Enterprises, seizing 114 to 209 empty domestic cylinders, and arrested owner Kumaraswamy for hoarding without a licence. At Kengeri (Mailasandra), 15 cylinders were seized from a shopkeeper accused of creating an artificial shortage and overpricing. In Chokkasandra (Peenya), 45 cylinders were seized and the agency owner arrested for illegal storage and sale.

DCP G K Mithun Kumar (north east) explained that the unique identification number on LPG cylinders acts like a fingerprint. "Police conduct raids along with Food Department inspectors. There are challenges in tackling the cylinder black market as illegal operators often strip old paint, repaint, or apply fresh enamel to make worn-out or rusted cylinders appear new and authorised, while skipping mandatory safety checks," he said.

Serial number on cylinder links it to a specific manufacturer and reveals its entire maintenance history that can prove to be crucial evidence

He added that fresh paint can conceal serious damage such as rust or dents that should have led to the cylinder being discarded. In many cases, cylinders are repainted, illegally refilled in residential setups sometimes using siphoned gas and sold without safety compliance, posing significant risks, especially for household use.

IN BRIEF

Dasara elephant Arjuna honoured in Hassan

The K'taka Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre inaugurated a memorial of Arjuna, the sixty-four-year-old Dasara fame elephant, in Yaslur in Hassan district on Wednesday. Arjuna died on Dec 4, 2023, during a fight with a wild elephant near Yeslur in Sakaleshpur while participating in an elephant capture operation conducted by the Karnataka Forest Department. On the occasion, the minister said the state government has decided to bring together elephants that have strayed outside forest areas and create an elephant sanctuary. — BMB

Protect Devaraja Market, Lansdowne Building: SC

The Apex Court has said that the over a century-old Devaraja Market and the Lansdowne Building in Mysuru should be protected, with necessary renovation and restoration work carried out. The market and building were constructed in the 1880s during the reign of the erstwhile Maharaja of Mysore. A bench comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Vijay Bishnoi passed the order on May 4 after examining a report submitted by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee, on the condition of the two heritage structures. SC backs restoring Mysuru heritage landmarks, calls for scientific conservation plan based on IIT-Roorkee committee findings. — BMB

Hubballi, Shivamogga drive K'taka aviation growth

Passenger traffic trends across Karnataka's Tier-II airports present a mixed picture in 2025–26, with Hubballi and Shivamogga emerging as growth centres even as several others report a decline. Hubballi Airport has recorded an 8 per cent increase in passenger numbers, underlining its growing importance as a regional aviation hub. Improved connectivity to major metro cities such as Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru, along with rising demand for air travel, has contributed to the steady growth. Hubballi, Shivamogga airports record growth, while Mysuru, Belagavi and Kalaburagi witness declining passanger traffic amid uneven regional aviation expansion across the state. — BMB

Those urinating in public must look in the mirror

In a bid to secure the top rank in this year's Swachh Survekshan, the Mysuru City Corporation has introduced a simple but effective solution to curb public urination and littering. Steel mirrors have been installed along compound walls on a key footpath near the suburban bus stand and the govt guest house on a trial basis. These spots were earlier prone to misuse by commuters and passersby. Officials said the idea is straightforward. Anyone attempting to urinate in public is forced to see themselves in the mirror while also being visible to others on the road, creating a sense of discomfort and discouraging the act. Mysuru mirror pilot may reshape B'luru public hygiene. — BMB

"There's no rift, just timing, I missed the game after travel and commentary, but Rohit's innings was outstanding, a reminder of his class and ability to dominate attacks."
—Ravichandran Ashwin, Former India spinner

BangaloreMirror | 7
Thursday, May 7, 2026
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Three dreams, one hockey goal

Coorg's rising talents navigate grit, sacrifice and ambition, emerging from grassroots culture into elite pathways, redefining aspirations within India's evolving women's hockey landscape

Vasudha Zora
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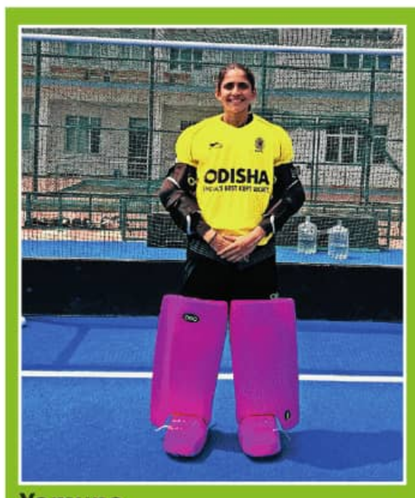
Field hockey holds an emotional and historic place in India's sporting identity. Widely regarded as the national sport, it has delivered moments of global pride, from Olympic dominance to producing legends who shaped the game. Regions such as Coorg have kept hockey alive in Karnataka, where it is culturally passed down through generations. From deep-rooted traditions to the high-performance corridors of national camps, the journeys of Rakshitha J, Yamuna and Vidyashree reflect the layered reality of women's hockey in India, one shaped by structure, resilience and an unrelenting pursuit of the Indian jersey. Rakshitha J's introduction to hockey was organic. Her interest grew as she watched senior players train intensively under coach Ramesh. Hailing from Somwarpet in Coorg, she soon took up the forward position and, with strong parental support, steadily climbed the ranks to represent the state at the national level.

"Each training session is a chance to improve myself, and I am giving my all to reach that level where I can represent India," she said after earning a place at the Junior India Camp.

Currently training at the NCOE, Rakshitha follows a rigorous routine with two practice sessions a day. She benefits from access to nutritionists, physiotherapists and quality infrastructure, including a well-maintained girls' hostel and dedicated coaching staff, all of which have helped her maintain peak fitness.


Yamuna

Vidyashree

Rakshitha

Alongside her training, she is supported through the sports quota and is enrolled in a distance-learning programme. Financial assistance from schemes such as Khelo India has helped her manage daily expenses and stay focused on performance.

"Every day is a new challenge because the competition is high, and I have to stay consistent and disciplined," she said. Her efforts have translated into results, with a bronze medal at the Asmitha Hockey League Junior Inter-Zone Nationals 2026 and a gold medal at the Junior South Zone 2026.

Yamuna's journey reflects a different set of challenges. Moving away from home to the DYES hostel in the sixth grade, she had to overcome homesickness and societal scepticism early on. Despite being told to prioritise studies over sport, she remained determined.

"People told me to stay home and study, but I was determined to prove myself. My goal is to wear the Indian jersey," she said.

She credits government support and coach Ravish H B for access to facilities and disciplined training.

Balancing late-night study sessions with training was one of her biggest struggles, but her perseverance paid off when she secured a job with the CISF through the sports quota. However, she points out that gender disparities remain a concern."There is still a lack of equal opportunity, especially for girls, as they do not get enough major platforms to showcase their skills," she said.

Currently backed by SNS for equipment support and receiving 10,000 under the Khelo India scheme, Yamuna continues to work towards a place in the senior national team.

She has represented in multiple national and university-level tournaments, including the Hockey India Junior Women's National Championships in 2023, 2024 and 2025, as well as the National Games and All India Inter-University competitions. Her achievements include a gold medal at the Junior Women's South Zone Championship 2023 and a silver at the South Zone Inter-University Games 2024.

Vidyashree's path into hockey came unexpectedly. Initially a volleyball player in the seventh grade, she was advised to switch sports due to not meeting height requirements. What began as a reluctant shift soon turned into passion, inspired by players such as Suraj Karkera and Irish goalkeeper David Harte.

Training at the SAI NCOE in Mumbai, she now benefits from structured coaching and also serves as a CISF Head Constable in Bhubaneswar. Despite facing body-shaming and personal struggles, she stayed determined.

Vidyashree cites financial constraints and limited exposure as key challenges but remains focused on her goal of representing India and winning Olympic medals. She has played in the Netherlands and Belgium, won bronze in the Hockey India League 2024–25, and featured across national tournaments.

Along with Rakshitha and Yamuna, she represents a new generation breaking barriers in Indian women's hockey.

Not in B'luru, IPL final to be held in A'bad

The final of this year's Indian Premier League (IPL) has been shifted to Ahmedabad, the country's cricket board said on Wednesday, citing operational and logistical issues at the original venue in Bengaluru. Royal Challengers Bengaluru's celebrations after winning their maiden IPL title went horribly wrong last year when 11 people were killed in a stampede outside the Chinnaswamy Stadium. The local government reviewed its safety arrangements before allowing it to stage IPL matches this season, including the May 31 final, at its home ground.

"Bengaluru was originally designated to host the final," Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Devajit Saikia said in a statement. "However, owing to certain requirements from the local association and authorities that were beyond the scope of BCCI's established guidelines and protocols, the venue has been shifted and reassigned." The Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA), which operates the Chinnaswamy Stadium, said it was disappointed by the BCCI's decision to move the matches elsewhere. "KSCA had sent a detailed communication to the BCCI outlining its preparedness and explaining the operational framework under which the current IPL season was conducted in Bengaluru," the state association said in a statement. KSCA said it respects BCCI's decision despite no formal reasons being shared.

Under the revised schedule, Dharamsala hosts Qualifier 1, New Chandigarh the eliminator and Qualifier 2, with the final in Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium, its fourth IPL final in five years. —**Reuters**

Decision linked to stadium capacity: DKS

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday clarified that the decision to shift the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 final from Bengaluru to Ahmedabad was taken due to the larger stadium capacity in the latter city and was not connected to allegations regarding ticket distribution to MLAs. Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Shivakumar said the move was aimed at accommodating a larger number of spectators and ensuring wider public access to the marquee match. "The IPL final must have been shifted with the intention that there is a big stadium in Ahmedabad and more people will gather," he said. He further denied any link to MLA ticket allocation, adding that 50% seats are reserved elsewhere.

Hyderabad continues run-scoring spree, Punjab falters

Heinrich Klaasen and Ishan Kishan, along with the rest of the batters, helped Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) continue their formidable run-scoring spree, posting a massive 235/4 in the 20 overs against Punjab Kings (PBKS) in their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 match on Wednesday at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium.

And the team's bowlers were up to the task when it came to defending the total as Punjab kept losing wickets at frequent intervals, but Cooper Connolly kept the team's hopes alive till the end.

Earlier, Klaasen (69 runs off 43 balls) and Kishan (55 runs off 32 balls) scored crucial fifties after openers Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma gave them a solid start. For the PBKS bowlers, it was a tough outing as only Yuzvendra Chahal managed to go for anything under 10 runs per over.

Despite PBKS skipper Shreyas Iyer winning the toss and opting to bowl first, the decision backfired as the SRH batters feasted on a flat Uppal deck. The "Orange Army" openers set the tone from the very first over. Abhishek Sharma (35 off 13) and Travis Head (38 off 19) attacked the PBKS bowlers with disdain.

Abhishek looked particularly dangerous, striking four sixes before falling to Lockie Ferguson in the 4th over. By the end of the Powerplay, SRH had already raced to 79/1, establishing a dominant run rate of over 13 per over.

Yuzvendra Chahal got rid of Travis Head, but not before he had made sure that SRH got a brilliant start, with a 38-run knock. After seven overs, SRH were 86/2.

Sunrisers Hyderabad's Nitish Kumar Reddy with his teammates celebrates the wicket of Punjab Kings' Prabhsimran Singh; Sunrisers Hyderabad's Ishan Kishan plays a shot

Following the departure of the openers, Ishan Kishan and Heinrich Klaasen took charge of the innings. Kishan, who survived three dropped catches, made the most of his lifelines to smash a blistering 55 off 32 balls, slamming four sixes and two boundaries.

Klaasen, the primary aggressor in the latter half, played a masterclass in power-hitting. He reached his fifty in 32 deliveries and finished unbeaten on 69 off 43 balls, peppered with four sixes and three fours. Together, Klaasen and Kishan stitched an 88-run partnership off 48 balls.

A late-innings cameo from Nitish Kumar Reddy (29* off 13) ensured the momentum never shifted, as the duo shared a 63-run partnership off just 32 balls to close the innings. —**ANI**

Today's battle
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Ward engineers urged to conduct periodic inspections

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

maintained around each trunk for natural absorption otherwise, roots weaken, leading to trees toppling during monsoons and strong winds. We urge the Forest Department to prioritise tree maintenance and enlist citizen volunteers from each ward to support this effort. Protecting our green assets is essential for sustaining Bengaluru's green cover and ensuring our trees thrive for generations," said Vinod Jacob, environmentalist & urban strategist.

Expressing concern over the rampant concretisation and construction of raised platforms around trees on Gandhi Bazar, Jayanagar and other areas, Basavanagudi Heritage Residents' Welfare Association president RK Guruprasad said that many hotels have encroached the footpaths by constructing raised platforms around trees.

"These raised platforms are not only causing inconvenience to pedestrians but also pose danger to those trees. The hotel workers are using water left-over from the washing to water the trees.

This contains chemicals and food residue that can lead to the slow death of the trees. I have complained to the forest department but no action is initiated to remove the raised platforms around trees," said Guruprasad.

Coming down heavily on the engineers of the wards for not inspecting the footpaths that were developed and upgraded to ensure

"These raised platforms are not only causing inconvenience to pedestrians but also pose danger to those trees. The hotel workers are using water left-over from the washing to water the trees.

there is no concrete around trees, Shiva P, a resident of Indiranagar, said that trees are getting concretised due due to lack of awareness among the workers and the contractor assigned for the development of footpaths. "The engineers must not only instruct the contractor to ensure space around trees for percolation of rainwater but also inspect the developmental works to see whether the contractor has done the work as per norms," he said.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Conservator of Forest said that trees should be free from concrete and sufficient space should be ensured around the trees to ensure percolation of rainwater. "Constructing raised platforms around trees is against the norms. I will instruct the health officers of the respective wards to direct the hoteliers to remove raised platforms around trees. The health officer can cancel the trade licence of those entities for violating the norms," he said.

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Jitesh Jain, residing at No 1, A cross road AGB layout Bengaluru 560086, I changed my name to Jitesh S Jain

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I, NIRANJAN MUGULUVALLI SOMASHEKARAPPA R/at No.113/1, Block 10, Word 2, Kadur Bypass Road, Opp Nuture International School, Chikkamagaluru – 577102 have changed my name to NIRANJANA MUGULUVALLI SOMASHEKARAPPA vide affidavit dated 04/05/2026 sworn before notary V.Rangaramu, Bangalore

I, Shaik Mehatab Tarunam(Old Name) W/O Attar Jakeer Hussain, 402 5th Cros SK Garden Jigani Hobli Bilwaradahalli Bengaluru-560083 Changing My Name From Shaik Mehatab Tarunam (Old Name) To Shaik Mehatab Tarunnum (New Name) Henceforth I Am Being Called As Shaik Mehatab Tarunnum (New Name) For All Purpose

I, Shilpa.R R/o Door No 1 1st Floor 1st Main 16th Cross Bk Nagar Opp To Lic Colony Yeshwantpur Bangalore 560022 have changed my minor son's name from P.B.Aarush to Aarush.P.B for all purposes.

I, SEETA residing at No. 1048, 4th floor, Prestige Tranquility, Budigere Cross, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru-560049, have changed my name to SEETA YADAV vide affidavit dated: 6/5/2026 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

I, ANDREA ELZABETH CORREYA, R/o No.40, Ambatt House, Akahya Shreemagnus Layout, Veerasagara road, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru-560064, have changed my name to ANDREA ELIZABETH CORREYA for all purposes.

I, Abhishek Chandrasekhar Matasugur S/O Chandrasekhar Mallanna Matasugur residing at No.6, 1st cross, Vidyasagar Layout, Gottigere, Bannerghatta road, Bengaluru 560083, have changed my name to Abhishek Matasugur vide affidavit no. IN-KA50416728575776Y dated 04.05.2026 at Bengaluru

I, Rakesh V S/o Kirata Balan No 345, 5th Main Isro Layout, Kumaraswamy Layout Bangalore 560078 Have Changed My Name To Rakesh Vetatha Nair For All Purposes

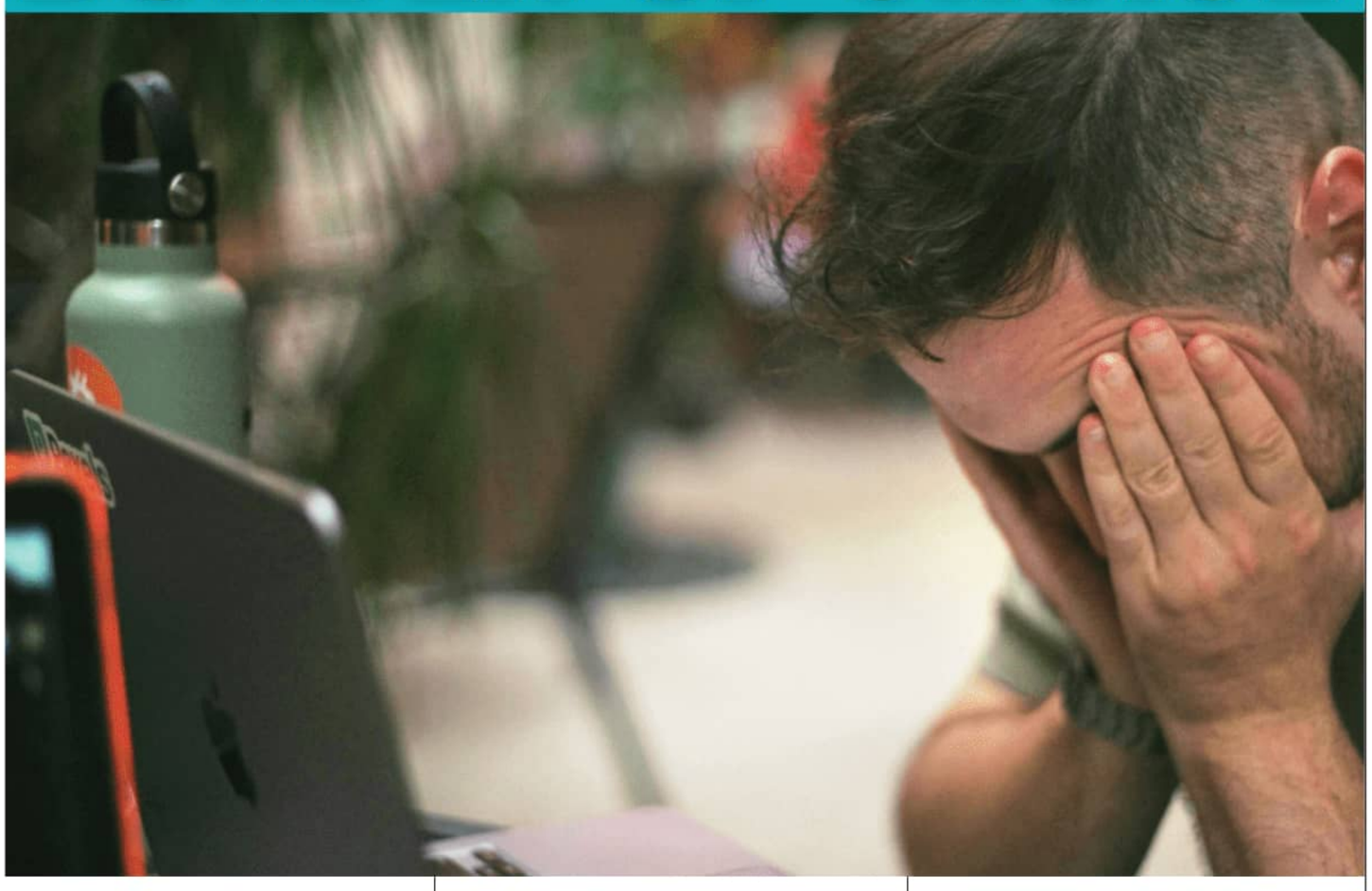
I, BHARATI HASSAN THIMMAPPA R/at Main Road, Opp Society, Holalkere Taluk, Chikkajajur, Chitradurga 577523 have changed my name to BHARATHI HASSAN THIMMAPPA vide affidavit dated 05/05/2026 sworn before notary V.Rangaramu, B'lore

I, HARSHITA GANAGI R/at Hostel Room No.822, Satya Girls Hostel, Deralakatte, Mangalore 575018 have changed my name to HARSHITHA JAGADISH GANAGI vide affidavit dated 05/05/2026 sworn before notary V.Rangaramu, Bangalore

I, Umme Zumra(Old Name) D/O Syed Nazeer Basha, 203 Sai Regency Apartment 2nd Cros K.R.Puram Bengaluru-560036 Changing My Name From Umme Zumra (OLD NAME) To Syed Zumra (New Name) Henceforth I Am Being Called As Syed Zumra (New Name) For All Purpose

BUSINESS CONNECT

BURDEN OF CHOICE



Red button or blue button? What a viral question tells us about state of world

Everyone on earth takes a private vote by pressing a red or blue button. If more than 50 per cent of people press the blue button, everyone survives. If less than 50 per cent of people press the blue button, only people who pressed the red button survive. Which button would you press?

This question is the latest thought experiment to set off waves of controversy on social media, following classic examples such as the trolley problem and the prisoner's dilemma.

Most people think the choice is extremely obvious. However, not everyone agrees whether the obvious answer is blue or red, and they want to argue about it.

What's going on here? From the point of view of philosophy and game theory, the question shows two different intuitions and views of decision-making with starkly contrasting results. And the very popularity of the question highlights the fraught existential stakes many of us feel in modern life.

Red or blue? It's complicated

The case for red seems simple. If more than 50 per cent of people press the blue button, red pressers survive. If not, red pressers survive anyway. So basic self-interest leads to red.

In game theory, this choice leads to what is known as the Nash equilibrium. This is the best choice for a participant looking to advance their own interests.

However, in several polls, the majority of respondents pick blue. At first glance, this may seem irrational and self-destructive.

Why would anyone stake their own life on the collective decisions of others? This is where, as with any good thought experiment, the real value of the provocation shows itself, as we ponder the "why" behind the choice.

Blue pressers might proffer a diverse set of responses: "I'm worried my family and friends might pick blue and I want them to survive"; "I'm concerned people might find out if I pick red and judge me"; "If I picked red I would feel responsible for the potential deaths of others"; "I believe humanity is inherently good," and so on.

Such responses hint at what game theorists call the pareto-optimal outcome, where the least potential damage is done by one's choice.

Why now?

What's also interesting is why such a thought experiment has gone viral in 2026. In any society, what cultural theorist Raymond Williams called a "structure of feeling" holds sway: an affective atmosphere, a set of moods and emotions that are most visible in its symbolic output.

We can here point to popular culture. Shows such as Netflix's hit series Squid Game, the glut of Survivor-style reality TV shows, the digital game Among Us and the Hunger Games books and films rely on similar setups.

More than at any time in human history, we are interdependent on a global scale: politically, economically, militarily, technologically, culturally. When a domino falls on one side of the planet, we now see it, hear it and feel it on the other side.

This engenders a distinct sense of vulnerability and precarity. We are bombarded every day with information from all around that can stress, enrage and exhaust us.

Why here?

The specific formulation of the thought experiment, condensed down into a simple binary choice, is also perfect for social media, where hot takes dominate and extremity is rewarded by the algorithm: yes or no, right or wrong, gold-and-white dress or blue-and-black.

It's also where similar questions are often asked of influencers, who might sacrifice their own moral viewpoints in pursuit of attention and visibility. It's a perfect quick moral apocalypse for a doomscrolling public.

Another useful idea here is the "Promethean gap" described in 1956 by philosopher of technology Gunther Anders. The idea is that the more technological capacity grows, the less humanity can comprehend emotionally, intellectually and morally.

We have, in a sense, outsourced too much of ourselves to technology. In doing so, we have let some crucial competencies atrophy, and so the gap grows.

Under rapidly advancing technology, our capacity for action exceeds our capacities for moral imagination.

This fear is readily apparent in the thought experiment: the world ended at the push of a button. By comparison, the stakes of the prisoner's dilemma or the trolley problem seem positively quaint.

(By Steven Conway, Swinburne University of Technology, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Study says trees counter urban heating, but less in places that need it most

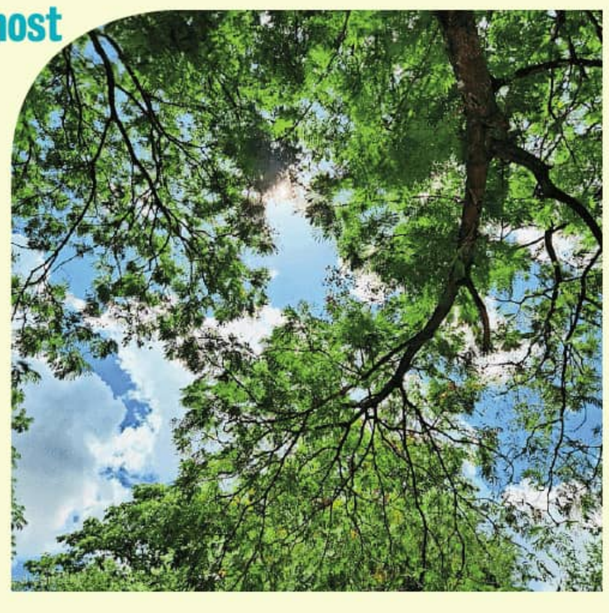
Trees are countering nearly half the urban heating from pavement and buildings in the world's cities, but they're not doing enough cooling in hotter, poorer cities where it's needed the most as the world warms, a new study found.

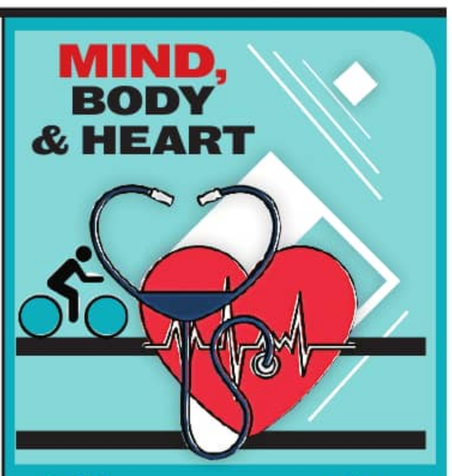
When averaged out over all the world's cities, tree cover — by giving shade and releasing water vapour — cools an average of 0.27 degrees Fahrenheit (0.15 degrees Celsius), according to a study in Wednesday's Nature Communications.

Without those trees, the world's cities would warm on average by 0.31 degrees Celsius due to the urban heat island effect, where dark roofs and pavement absorb heat.

About 185 million people living in 31 of the larger cities already feel an average cooling from tree cover of at least half a degree Fahrenheit (0.3 degrees Celsius). But study lead author Rob McDonald, a scientist at the Nature Conservancy, said poorer and hotter large urban centres that need it the most aren't getting as much relief from higher heat.

In 20 cities with at least 3 million people, residents feel less than a tenth of a degree Fahrenheit (0.05 degrees Celsius) from cooling trees. On the other end of the spectrum, McDonald looked at cities where tree cover cools at least 0.45 degrees Fahrenheit (0.25 degrees Celsius). Nearly 40 per cent of cities in wealthy nations get that much cooling, but just under 9 per cent in the poorest countries have that amount of tree relief, the study said. —AP





All you need to know about...

Barriers to restful sleep

You put yourself to bed by 10 pm, you spend a full eight hours in bed, but you still wake up exhausted. More often than not, the answer lies in the habits bookending your bedtime – the everyday choices that are stealing your sleep in unexpected ways.

Using phone or tablet in bed
At a time when you need to wind down, the blue light from your phone or tablet screen suppresses melatonin production, while the mental stimulation keeps your brain in alert mode.

Inconsistent sleep schedule
You might look forward to sleeping in on weekends but this inconsistency disrupts your circadian rhythm. Your body clock thrives on regularity, which means that "social jetlag" can be caused by even a one-or two-hour delay.

Big meal close to bedtime
Eating a heavy or spicy dinner late at night forces your digestive system to work overtime. This raises your core body temperature, and can trigger acid reflux. All of these are enemies of deep sleep.

Napping too long or too late
Taking a nap after three in the afternoon or one that is longer than 30 minutes can bleed into your nighttime sleep pressure. This will make it much harder to fall asleep at your normal hour.

Lying awake in bed
This is an unexpected finding: The longer you spend awake in bed, the more your brain associates the bed with wakefulness and frustration. This is what sleep specialists call "conditioned arousal" – and it is a core driver of chronic insomnia.

—Femina

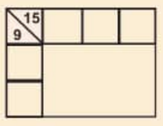
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

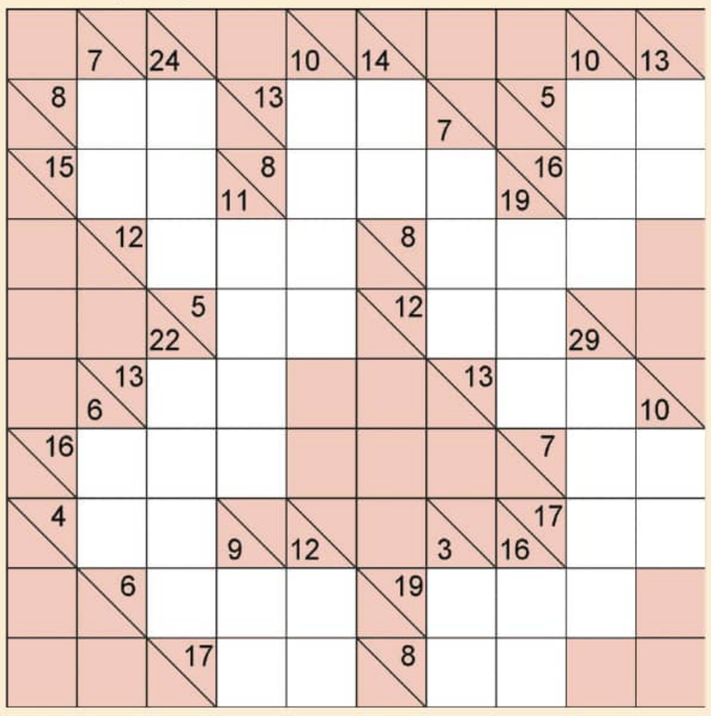
$(\sqrt{5}+2) / 5^{x} = 125 / (\sqrt{5}-2)$
x=?

Kakuro

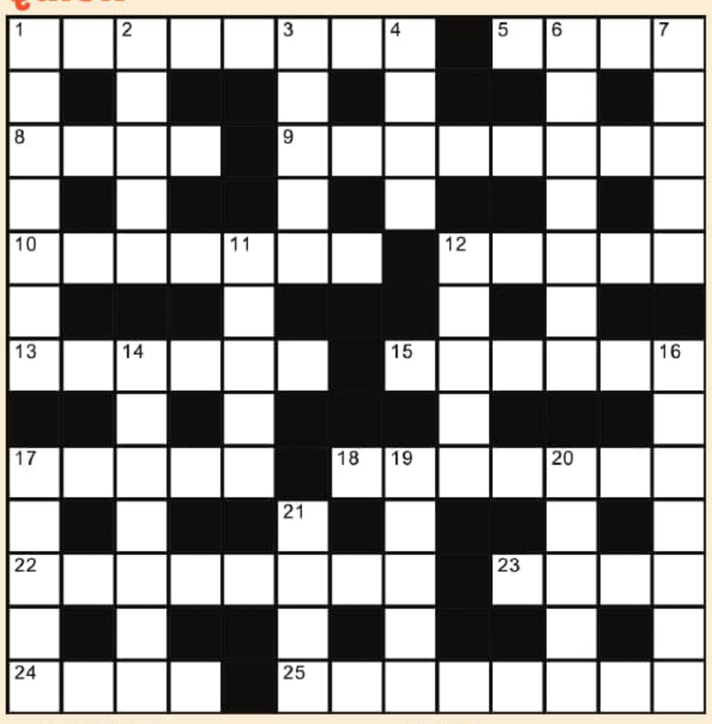
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Carry a burden (8)
5 Highest point (4)
8 She in French (4)
9 Courgette (8)
10 Information added in the end as supplements (7)
12 Impulses (5)
13 State of neglect (6)
15 Open, honest and frank (6)
17 Delicious (5)
18 Neptune's spear (7)
22 Mexico port, resort (8)
23 Fever and paroxysms associated with malaria (4)
24 Many millennia (4)
25 Butts in (informal) (8)

DOWN

1 Mess attendant (7)
2 Lubricated (5)
3 In a state of stupor (5)
4 Mass of stone (4)
6 Flinched, quailed or recoiled as if in fear (7)
7 Prepares for publication (5)
11 Inquisitive (5)
12 Festival that marks the beginning of the Kannada new year (5)
14 Uphold, support or bear (7)
16 Vacillates (7)
17 Vocation (5)
19 Perch (5)
20 ___ on : encouraged or abetted ? (5)
21 161 in the old Roman figuration (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: W EQUALS G

N AKNFNANMD VH AKDQFNRB, BRF VH GNBJNBW GQXSF.

Linemaro

You may fall from the sky, you may fall from a tree, but the best way to fall... Is in love with me

Mindchow

Don't waste a good mistake, learn from it

Joke of the day

Why did the tofu cross the road? To prove he wasn't chicken

Loop

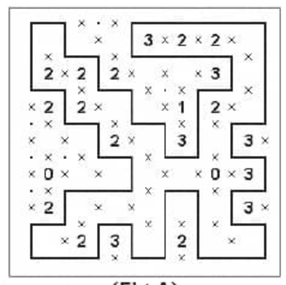
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

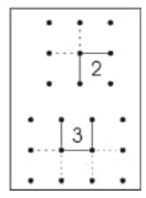
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

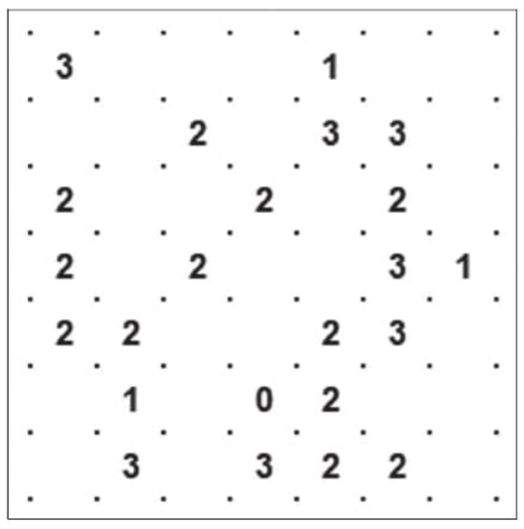
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



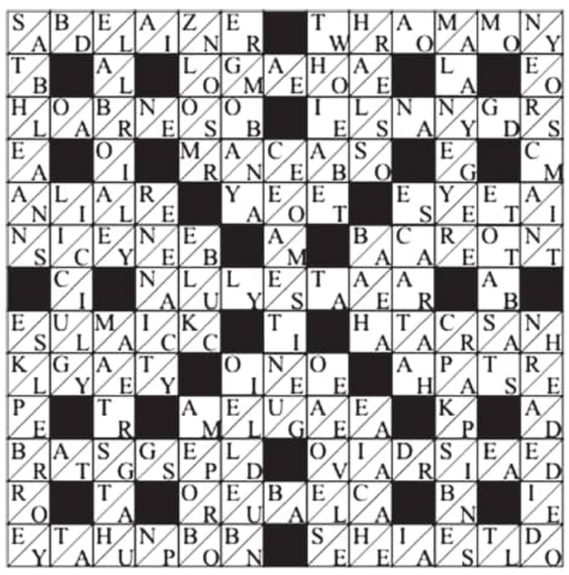
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



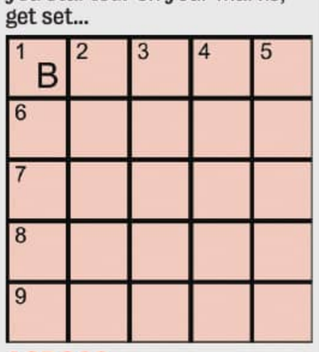
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

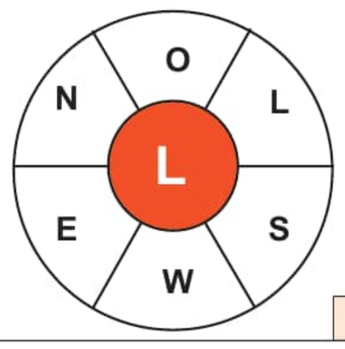
1 At Lbs; 6 Arc SK; 7 Iotas; 8 I rose; 9 Ms Din

DOWN

1 Mr Boo; 2 Sails; 3 Antic; 4 Dikes; 5 Trass

Mensapuzzle

Which number is needed to finish this puzzle?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; 07 Good; 09 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

5								6
	7				2		3	
2			5	8			7	9
		7	1	2				
6			9		8			5
				4	3	7		
4	9			6	7			3
	5		2				9	
1								7

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

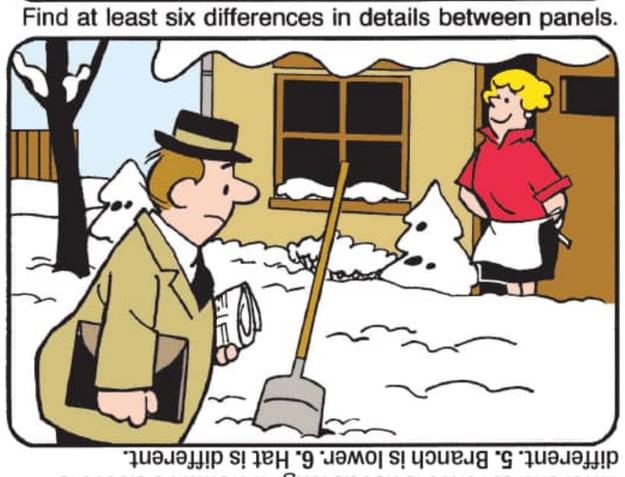
Easy = 3
5 9 6 5

Medium = 3
4 5 9 3

Hard = 25
2 4 6 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Shovel handle is longer. 2. Lapel is different. 3. Fence is not as long. 4. Woman's sleeve is different. 5. Branch is lower. 6. Hat is different.

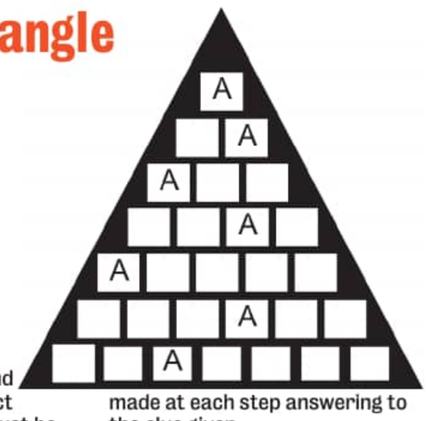
Riddler

Identify the fruits and vegetables from the following clues: (Don't assume that you know how part of a clue is pronounced. There may be more than one way!)

1. A pool stick + C + a burnt brownish color = _____.
2. Your mother pairs socks at the toes.
3. A drink + me + the end of the word "talon" = _____.

Alpha triangle

1 Blood group
2 French article
3 Pub potation
4 Slim
5 Not native
6 Involve
7 Great joy

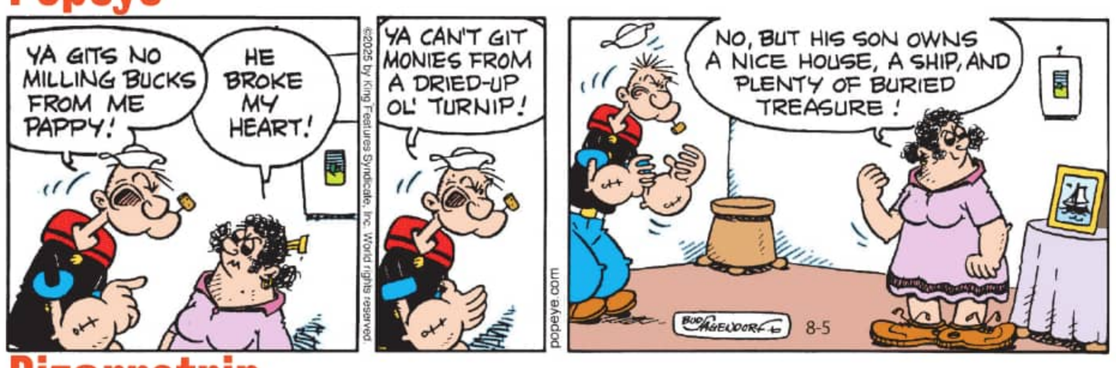


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye


YA GITS NO MILLING BUCKS FROM ME PAPPY!
HE BROKE MY HEART!
YA CAN'T GIT MONIES FROM A DRIED-UP OL' TURNIP!
NO, BUT HIS SON OWNS A NICE HOUSE, A SHIP, AND PLENTY OF BURIED TREASURE!
8-5
popeye.com

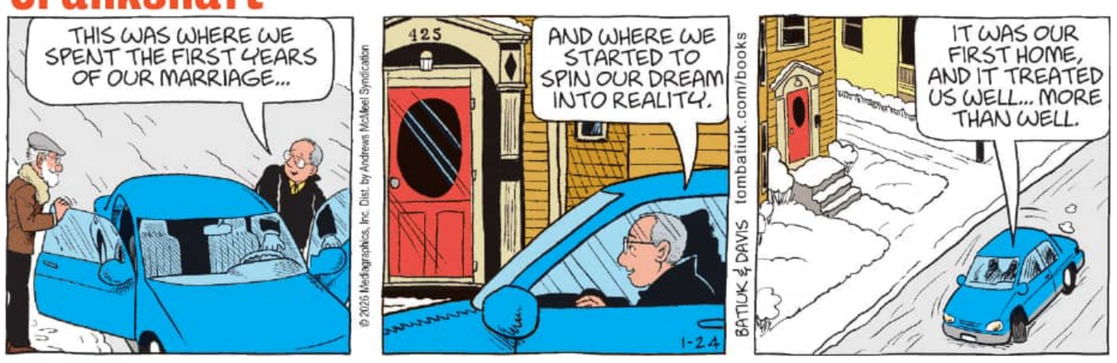
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

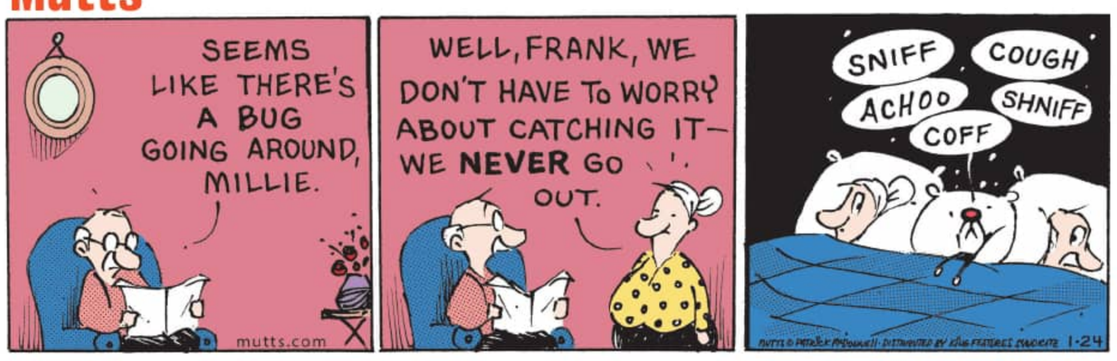
Hart of the city

ALL ABOARD TO THE THEATRE TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS!
ISN'T THIS THE BUS THE BASKETBALL TEAM USES?
IT HAS TO BE.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2026 ANDREWS MCMEEL
©GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


THIS WAS WHERE WE SPENT THE FIRST YEARS OF OUR MARRIAGE...
AND WHERE WE STARTED TO SPIN OUR DREAM INTO REALITY.
IT WAS OUR FIRST HOME, AND IT TREATED US WELL... MORE THAN WELL.
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts


SEEMS LIKE THERE'S A BUG GOING AROUND, MILLIE.
WELL, FRANK, WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT CATCHING IT— WE NEVER GO OUT.
SNIFF COUGH ACHOO SNIFF COFF
mutts.com

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Introspection and spiritual discovery mark your path this year. You will feel a strong pull toward solitude and deep self-reflection. Trust your intuition over logic when making major life choices. A secret project kept under wraps until winter will yield impressive results. Focus on mental health and mindfulness to stay centred amidst the external noise of the busy world.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

You feel motivated to work efficiently and accomplish tasks today. At the same time, you're supportive toward colleagues, helping things run smoothly. Travel for work or enjoyable wardrobe purchases may arise.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Today is lively and enjoyable, encouraging social plans and fun experiences. Accept invitations for entertainment, romance, or gatherings. Your generosity toward others creates positive moments that feel personally fulfilling and rewarding.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Your open and positive attitude supports productive conversations with family today. Mutual support strengthens relationships, as your willingness to help encourages others to do the same, creating balanced and beneficial exchanges.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

You leave a strong, positive impression on authority figures today. Your enthusiasm and helpful nature are appreciated, making interactions rewarding. Others respond well to your energy, creating mutually satisfying and supportive exchanges.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Your generous nature shines today, inspiring you to help others, especially those in need. Others view you favourably, making it easier to gain support for meaningful efforts and shared positive intentions.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

You value independence today and prefer doing things your way. Curiosity drives deeper thinking about important questions, yet you remain supportive and willing to assist others whenever your help is needed.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

You may seek privacy today while still maintaining close connections with loved ones. Reflection on your future and personal values occupies your mind, guiding thoughtful and meaningful considerations about your direction.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

You may engage with groups or causes focused on helping others today. Your generous mind set extends to friends as well. At the same time, you feel motivated to stay productive and active.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

You're more visible than usual today, attracting attention and recognition. Others notice your actions closely. Balancing work and enjoyment feels natural, as you prioritise freedom and follow your own preferences confidently.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

You're drawn to deep, meaningful conversations today, seeking answers to bigger questions. Interest in philosophical or spiritual topics grows. At the same time, a playful, lighthearted mood encourages you to enjoy yourself.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

You approach financial discussions with generosity and understanding today. However, remember to prioritise your own needs as well. Maintaining balance ensures you can support others without compromising your personal well-being.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Relationships feel harmonious and supportive today, encouraging meaningful interactions with loved ones. Shared generosity strengthens bonds. Conversations or short trips uplift you, and new insights may positively influence your home or family.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Ananya, Bengaluru

Revathi, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

(√5 + 2)(√5 − 2) = (5^x) * 125
(5 − 4) / 125 = 5^x
1 / 125 = 5^x
5^x = 5^−3
x = −3

BULL'S EYE

lone, lose, sell, slew, slow, sole, swell, SWOLLEN, well

QUOTE UNCODE

I criticize by creation, not by finding fault.

FAST FIVE

B	L	A	S	T
R	A	C	K	S
O	S	T	I	A
O	S	I	E	R
M	I	N	D	S

STRIKE OUT

A	B	L	A	Z	E	W	H	A	M	M	Y			
T	A	O	M	A	H	A	A	E						
E	I	M	A	C	A	O	G	M						
H	O	B	N	O	B	E	L	A	N	D	S			
S	C	E	N	E	A	A	R	O	N					
N	I	L	E	Y	E	T	S	E	T	A				
S	L	A	C	K	I	H	A	R	S	H				
K	Y	A	T	O	N	E	H	A	T	E				
E	R	A	L	G	A	E	P	A						
R	A	G	G	E	D	V	A	R	I	E	D			
T	A	P	E	D		E								
A	C	A	P	U	L	C	O							
D	I	S	U	S	E	C	A	N	D	I	D			
R	A	D	E	N	D	A	U	R	G	E	S			
W	E	L	L	E	Z	U	C	H	I	N	I			
T	I	A	O	D	E	R	A	C	M	E				
S	H	O	U	L	D	E	R							

QUICK

E	O	N	S		I	N	T	R	U	D	E	S		
D		I		X		S		E		R				
A	C	A	P	U	L	C	O		A	G	U	E		
R		T		C		O		G				H		
T	A	S	T	Y		T	R	I	D	E	N	T		
	U		E				D					I		
D	I	S	U	S	E	C	A	N	D	I	D			
R		O				G		E						
A	D	D	E	N	D	A		U	R	G	E	S		
W	E		K		E		Z	U	C	H	I	N	I	
E	L	L	E		I		A	O		R		D		
T									A	C	M	E		
S	H	O	U	L	D	E	R							

STRIKE OUT

A	B	L	A	Z	E	W	H	A	M	M	Y			
T	A	O	M	A	H	A	A	E						
E	I	M	A	C	A	O	G	M						
H	O	B	N	O	B	E	L	A	N	D	S			
S	C	E	N	E	A	A	R	O	N					
N	I	L	E	Y	E	T	S	E	T	A				
S	L	A	C	K	I	H	A	R	S	H				
K	Y	A	T	O	N	E	H	A	T	E				
E	R	A	L	G	A	E	P	A						
R	A	G	G	E	D	V	A	R	I	E	D			
T	A	P	E	D		E								
A	C	A	P	U	L	C	O							
D	I	S	U	S	E	C	A	N	D	I	D			
R		O				G		E						
A	D	D	E	N	D	A		U	R	G	E	S		
W	E		K		E		Z	U	C	H	I	N	I	
E	L	L	E		I		A	O		R		D		
T									A	C	M	E		
S	H	O	U	L	D	E	R							

MENSA PUZZLE

12. Starting from the top, subtract 2 then add 7 and continue this sequence.

RIDDLER

1. Cucumber (Cu(e) + c + umber),
2. Tomato (Mating socks is an expression for pairing socks. When mating socks at the toes, tomato is the result),
3. Watermelon (water + me + lon)

SUDOKU

1	6	8	3	5	9	2	4	7
7	5	3	2	1	4	6	9	8
4	9	2	8	6	7	1	5	3
9	1	5	6	4	3	7	8	2
6	2	4	9	7	8	3	1	5
3	8	7	1	2	5	9	6	4
2	3	1	5	8	6	4	7	9
8	7	6	4	9	2	5	3	1
5	4	9	7	3	1	8	2	6

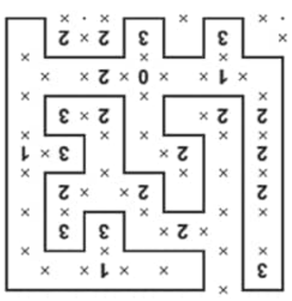
ALPHA TRIANGLE

A, La, Ale, Lean, Alien, Entail, Elation.

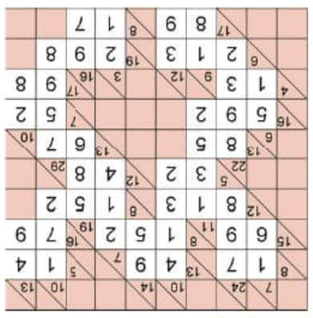
GO FIGURE

Easy
9 - 6 - 5 + 5 = 3
Medium
5 + 4 - 9 + 3 = 3
Hard
6 x 2 + 9 + 4 = 25

LOOP



KAKURO



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 # Jolie lists estate
Angelina Jolie lists historic Los Angeles estate for $29.85m, planning to move abroad after twins turn 18 in 2026, ending ties to former home

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Madanika trailer out

Ragini Dwivedi, known as Tuppada Hudugi in Sandalwood, is set to appear in a unique avatar in the Kannada film Madanika, a period suspense thriller. The trailer and a song were unveiled at Utsav Legacy on Tuesday.

Ragini said the film has generated curiosity and described it as a "glimpse of an interesting script" that took over two years to complete. She highlighted how technological advancements have enhanced filmmaking and music scoring, urging audiences to watch the film in theatres.

Director BS Sanjay turned emotional while recalling challenges during the project. He said unexpected incidents occurred during scripting and credited his wife, Kumaraswamy and Ragini for their support. He added that Ragini agreed to the role because of the strong script.

The film, based on a 400-year-old story, features 10 songs. Music composer Salam Veeroli called it his fourth film, while Victory Vasu praised the title and said Ragini was apt for the lead role.

Pandemic story unfolds

A team of newcomers has come together to produce Lockdown, a film inspired by incidents during Covid-19. The audio and trailer were launched at Renukamba Preview Theatre as part of promotions.

Produced by debutant Manju Mudgal and directed by Javed Thippanahatti, the film marks the latter's first independent venture after assisting several directors. Vijay Vignesh and Vanishri Srinivas play the lead roles, alongside Shravani, Ashwini Mudgal, Mamatha, Govindaraju and Vaila.

Javed said real-life incidents in and around Ballari inspired the script. The film, carrying the tagline "Vishada and Ranjane", blends comedy and romance with elements of fiction and features North Karnataka dialect. He urged audiences to watch the film in theatres to learn about lesser-known events from the region.

Mudgal said his struggles in finding acting opportunities due to lack of support prompted him to back the project instead. He added that preparations are under way for the film's release.

CHITRANGDA'S NEW AVATAR

Actress Chitrangda Singh says her upcoming role is unlike any she's played before

Chitrangda Singh is all set to appear alongside Salman Khan for the first time in 'Maatrubhumi: May War Rest In Peace,' and she's thrilled for viewers to see her in an entirely new avatar. The actor recently shared insights into the brief she was given, her process of embodying the role, and how it stands apart from the characters she has portrayed in the past.

Transforming into her character

Speaking to Variety India, Chitrangda said, "Well, the fact was that they didn't want me to look like Chitrangda at all. That's one thing that was very clear." Speaking about how she went about it, she elaborates, "The usual actor tools, of course. I think when we worked on the hair, the clothes, etc. I just suddenly looked like another person. I started to behave differently, sit differently. My whole body language changed!".

Singh further talked about her role and said, "This character is that of an absolutely simple woman who's totally in love with the family, the husband, the kids, and believes 'My house is my temple'."

Diverse roles over the years

Over the course of her two-decade film career, she has taken on a variety of roles. In 'Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi,' she essayed Geeta, a London-returned woman who goes on to teach and engage in social work in a village. In 'Desi Boyz,' she played Tanya, a college professor.

Most recently, she was seen as Meera Bansal in the Netflix film 'Raat Akeli Hai: The Bansal Murders,' a member of a powerful media family.

Singh seems particularly drawn to her role in 'Maatrubhumi: May War Rest In Peace,' calling it a welcome shift from the female characters she has portrayed in the past.

"It was very nice to play somebody who is so soft, giving and totally invested. I think it's in your being, more than just dialogues, which was what I was trying to do with the character. I hope it comes across like that. It's very different from the kind of women that Sudhir (Mishra) would write. I loved it and really enjoyed playing just a simple woman," said Singh. —ETimes

Lakshya preps for 'Lag Jaa Gale'

Lakshya is currently juggling multiple projects as he awaits the release of his romantic film 'Chand Mera Dil' while continuing work on his next, 'Lag Jaa Gale'. The action drama, which also features Tiger Shroff and Janhvi Kapoor, has now reportedly had its shooting schedule pushed to October. The delay is reportedly due to Lakshya's on-screen transformation.

According to the report, the actor appears in a soft, romantic avatar in 'Chand Mera Dil', but requires a more intense, rugged look for 'Lag Jaa Gale'. Since this requires him to grow his hair, the production timeline has been extended. According to Mid-day, while filming 'Lag Jaa Gale', Lakshya had to shoot for a few scenes of 'Chand Mera Dil'. His looks in both films are different. He had to not only cut his hair, but also trade the rugged avatar of 'Lag Jaa Gale' for the soft look that he has in 'Chand Mera Dil'. Now, he will have to grow his hair and then resume the actioner's shoot. —ETimes

'Dhak Dhak' sequel in motion?

When 'Dhak Dhak' (2023) didn't quite set the box office on fire, few expected its journey to continue. However, the film discovered a strong fan base after arriving on Netflix, turning what seemed like a modest release into a slow-burn success story. The growing appreciation prompted director Tarun Dudeja to confirm a followup in early 2024. There's now fresh momentum around the sequel. Sanjana Sanghi recently shared that the screenplay is complete and has already won over the core team.

Talking to Mid-Day, Sanjana Sanghi confirmed, "It's a script that we're all excited by, something that we've all said yes to. Tarun has done a stellar job in staying true to the characters. We can't wait to reunite for it," she said, hinting at the cast's eagerness to return. —ETimes

Olivia's response to trolls

Actress and filmmaker Olivia Wilde has replied to criticism of her appearance at the San Francisco International Film Festival, where she was promoting her new movie, The Invite. She shared a video of herself on her Instagram Stories that had an image of her viral interview with the San Francisco Chronicle at the festival and one of the Lord of the Rings character Gollum, reports people.com.

"Leave it to your little brother to give you the maximum amount of s---," Wilde captioned the clip. Her brother, Charlie Cockburn, can be heard asking, "Olivia Wilde, do you care to address recent rumours that you're a resurrected corpse?"

"Listen, that's a fish-eye lens. And I admit, is that my best angle? Was that my best-ever look? No. No, it's startling. It's a startling image," she responded while looking toward the camera. "Do you have any more questions?" she playfully asked her brother, before adding, "I'm not dead."

The comment section erupted with criticism about her appearance. —ETimes